

But we must not hold Medicare Select beneficiaries hostage until a date uncertain.

During debate today, concerns have been raised about premium rating based on age and one-time open enrollment periods under medigap policies. I agree that these concerns should be addressed. However, these issues relate to all MediGap policies, not just Medicare Select. We should not single out those who benefit from Medicare Select in order to iron out differences in overall MediGap policy. We can and should review these issues under Medicare reform and broader health care reform legislation.

Medicare Select works for older people in Wisconsin. It saves beneficiaries from 20 to 30 percent in premium costs than under traditional medigap policies.

Medicare Select plans are subject to the same regulations as other medigap policies which are regulated by the States. Select plans must offer sufficient access, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and provide full disclosure of network requirements.

The program saves money for Medicare recipients, does not cost the Federal Government, and perhaps most importantly, provides many beneficiaries and providers their first exposure to managed care.

Mr. President, time is running out. I urge my colleagues to support and extend Medicare Select.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I thank Senator ROCKEFELLER, the Senator from West Virginia, for all of his help. I am glad we were able to work this out. It looked a little sticky at first, but we have done it. I look forward to working with him on the Finance Committee as we have the hearings next fall or whenever the report comes in from HHS.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I yielded the remainder of my time, so if the Senator will yield.

Mr. CHAFEE. I yield. The Senator may take as much of my time as he wants.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. There are two points I want to make that I think are very important to those who might be listening and who might be confused at this point. One is that we went from a 5-year extension to a year-and-a-half extension. Then, as the Senator from Rhode Island pointed out, the year-and-a-half extension would then become automatic unless the Secretary of HHS had objections or found problems or whatever. That means that basically—I do not want this to be taken the wrong way—Donna Shalala who is watching this closely—I do not think destructively but constructively—18 months would pass and she would still be there. So that for some of the colleagues who might be worried that this is an automatic extension, it is not, except as the merit allows that. I think that is a matter of great comfort to me, and it is another reason why I appreciate the Senator from Rhode Island. I thank him.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the committee amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

So the bill (H.R. 483), as amended, was passed.

H.R. 483

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 483) entitled "An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit medicare select policies to be offered in all States, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. PERMITTING MEDICARE SELECT POLICIES TO BE OFFERED IN ALL STATES FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.

Section 4358(c) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended by section 172(a) of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

"(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—(1) The amendments made by this section shall only apply—

"(A) in 15 States (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) and such other States as elect such amendments to apply to them, and

"(B) subject to paragraph (2), during the 5 year period beginning with 1992.

"(2)(A) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study that compares the health care costs, quality of care, and access to services under medicare select policies with that under other medicare supplemental policies. The study shall be based on surveys of appropriate age adjusted sample populations. The study shall be completed by June 30, 1996.

"(B) The Secretary shall determine during 1996 whether the amendments made by this section shall remain in effect beyond the 5 year period described in paragraph (1)(B). Such amendments shall remain in effect beyond such period unless the Secretary determines (based on the results of the study under subparagraph (A)) that—

"(i) such amendments have not resulted in savings of premiums costs to those enrolled in medicare select policies (in comparison to their enrollment in medicare supplemental policies that are not medicare select policies and that provide comparable coverage),

"(ii) there have been significant additional expenditures under the medicare program as a result of such amendments, or

"(iii) access to and quality of care has been significantly diminished as a result of such amendments.

"(3) The GAO shall study and report to Congress, no later than June 10, 1996, on options for modifying the Medigap market to make sure that continuously insured beneficiaries are able to switch plans without medical underwriting or new pre-existing conditions exclusions. In preparing such options, the GAO shall determine if there are problems under the current system and the impact of each option on the cost and availability of insurance, with particular reference to

the special problems that may arise for enrollees in Medicare Select plans."

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask that we now have a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] is recognized.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DEWINE pertaining to the introduction of S. 816 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DEWINE. I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first let me thank our colleague from Ohio for his usual courtesy for giving me that little heads up so I can get ready to address the Senate.

AUTOMOTIVE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the purpose of the recently collapsed automotive trade negotiations between the United States and Japan and the administration's subsequent announcement to impose reciprocal restrictions on Japanese products and file an unfair trade complaint with the World Trade Organization is simple. That purpose is to open Japan's closed and protected auto and auto parts markets.

Yesterday, the administration took an important step toward opening Japan's automotive market to American products by announcing the specific list of Japanese products to be sanctioned in retaliation for the unfair exclusion of American products from Japan. We have listened to 25 years of trade rhetoric from one administration after another promising to open Japan's automotive markets to United States products. Endless talks and endless negotiations have not produced results. Japan's markets remain almost totally closed, and we have lost huge numbers of jobs during this period.

I have a little chart here which shows the statements of American Presidents since 1971. Every President of both parties has had promises made to him and, in turn, has assured the American people that we are going to act to open up Japanese markets to American products.

President Nixon in 1971 said:

Japan has accelerated its program of liberalizing its restrictions on imports.

When President Nixon said that, the deficit with Japan was \$1.3 billion.